



# KACHA AND DEVAYANI

STAR-CROSSED LOVERS

Vol 661 |

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*Cover illustration by: Dayal Patkar*

## Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, 1972, Reprinted February 2012, ISBN 978-81-8482-000-3  
Published & Printed by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., The Forum, 3rd Floor,  
Raghuvanshi Mill Compound, S.B.Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai- 400 013, India  
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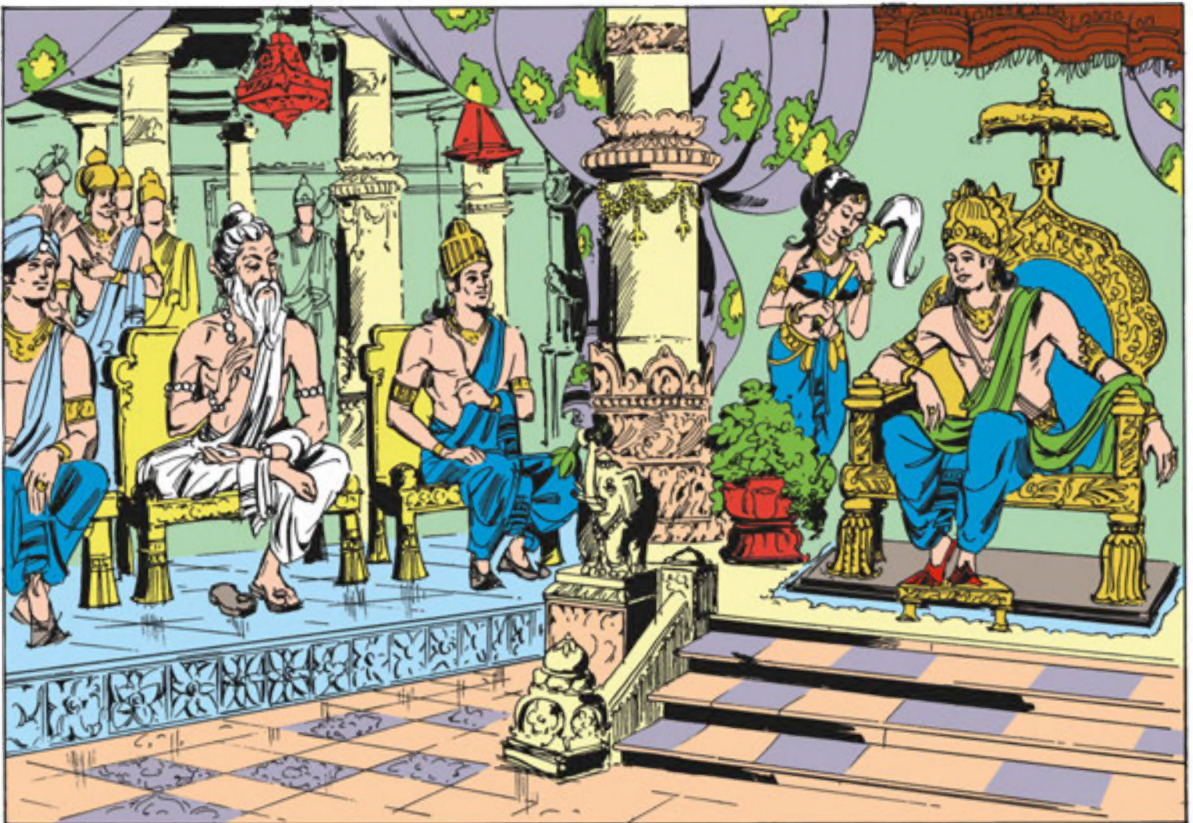


# KACHA DEVAYANI



IN THE DAYS OF YORE, THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS WERE EVER  
STRUGGLING FOR THE LORDSHIP OF THE THREE WORLDS.





**BOTH HAD WISE MEN TO GUIDE THEM. BRIHASPATI, THE SON OF SAGE ANGIRAS, LIVED IN THE ABODE OF INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS.**



**AND SHUKRACHARYA THE FAVOURITE PUPIL OF SAGE ANGIRAS, LIVED IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE ASURA KING, VRISHAPARVA.**



BUT OF THE TWO, SHUKRACHARYA ALONE KNEW THE CRAFT OF SANJIVANI, THE SECRET OF REVIVING THE DEAD.

AS LONG AS SHUKRACHARYA IS WITH US, OUR NUMBERS SHALL NEVER DECREASE.



HEAR!

HEAR!

HEAR!



FOR THOSE WHO HAD FALLEN IN BATTLE WERE SIMPLY BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE, TO CONTINUE THE WAR ON THE DEVAS.

THE VALIANT DEVAS, TIRED OF THE UNEQUAL STRUGGLE WENT TO THE BRILLIANT, HANDSOME YOUTH, KACHA, THE SON OF BRIHASPATI.

YOU MUST GO TO SHUKRACHARYA AND LEARN THE CRAFT OF SANJIVANI. ONLY THEN CAN WE VANQUISH OUR SWORN ENEMIES.





THE OBEDIENT AND DUTIFUL KACHA IMMEDIATELY SET OUT TO MEET SHUKRACHARYA.



THERE HE HUMBLY PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE GREAT WISE ONE.

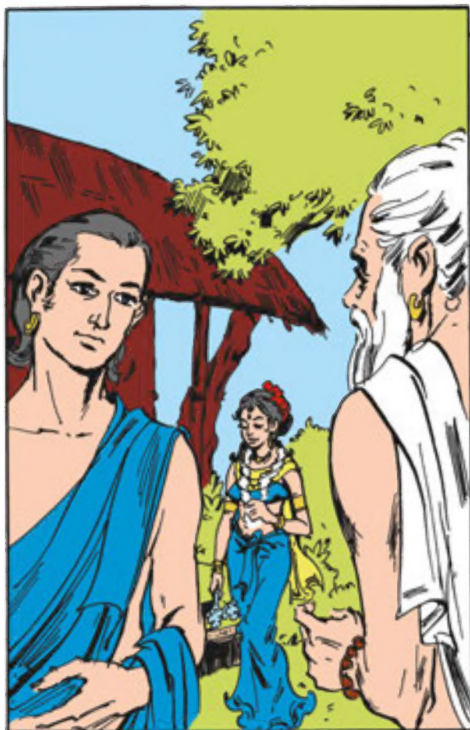


SHUKRACHARYA GAVE HIM A WARM WELCOME.

I ACCEPT YOU AS MY PUPIL, O WORTHY KACHA, SON OF LEARNED BRIHASPATI.

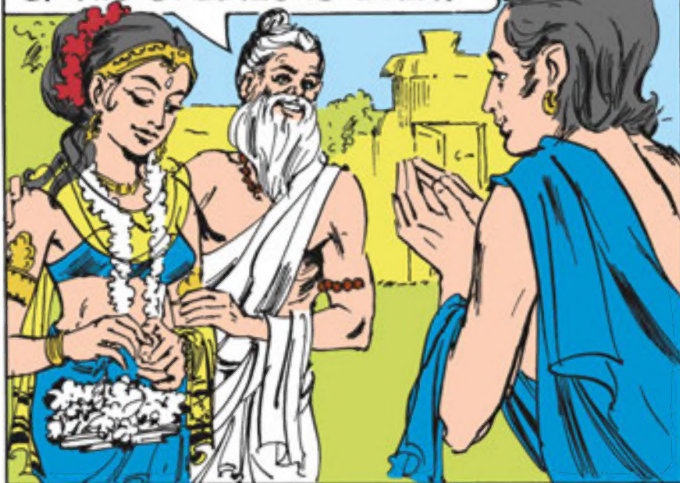




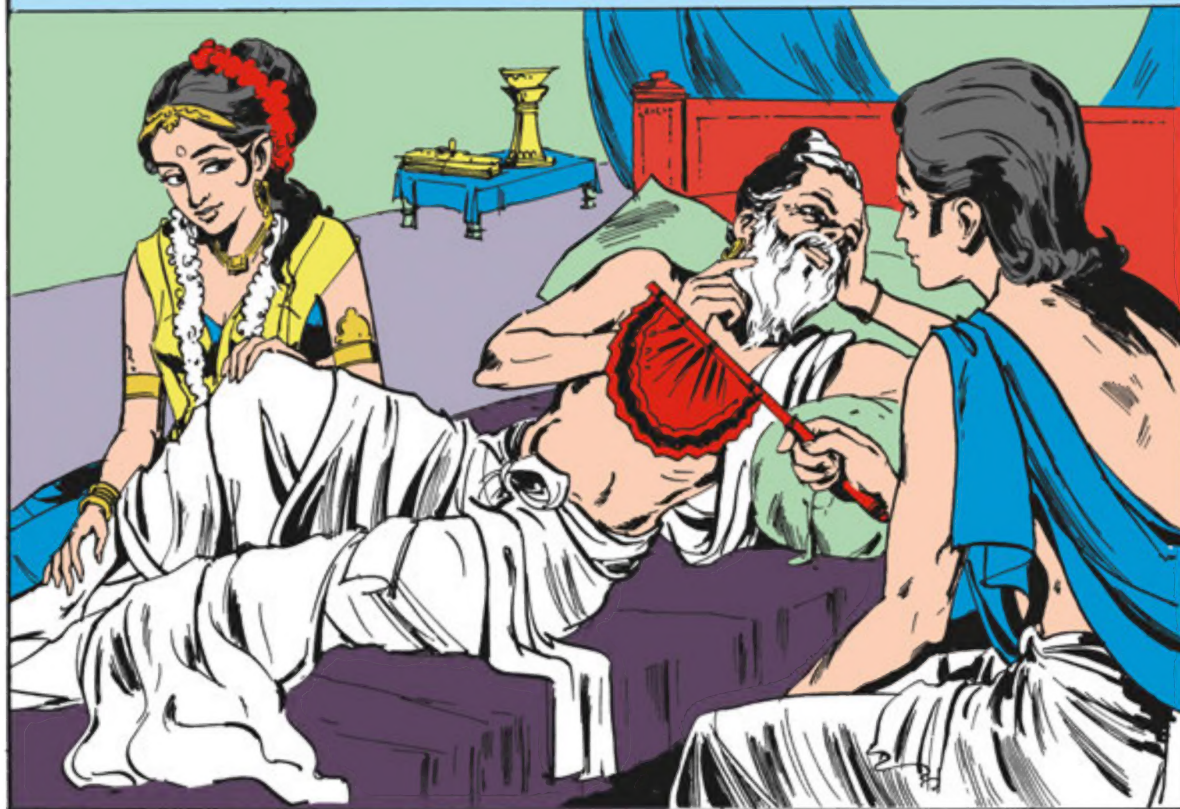


SHUKRACHARYA HAD A DAUGHTER,  
DEVAYANI, WHOM HE LOVED DEARLY.

COME DEVAYANI, MY CHILD.  
MEET THE WORTHY KACHA,  
WHO HAS VOWED TO BE  
MY PUPIL TILL THE PERIOD  
OF HIS STUDIES IS OVER.



ALL LEARNING IN THOSE DAYS WAS HANDED DOWN BY WORD OF MOUTH.  
THE PUPIL LIVED WITH HIS GURU'S FAMILY AS ONE OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.  
IN RETURN FOR HIS EDUCATION, HE SERVED HIS GURU WITH LOVE AND  
DEVOTION.





**BUT MOST OF THE DAY  
SHUKRACHARYA WAS EITHER BUSY  
AT COURT...**



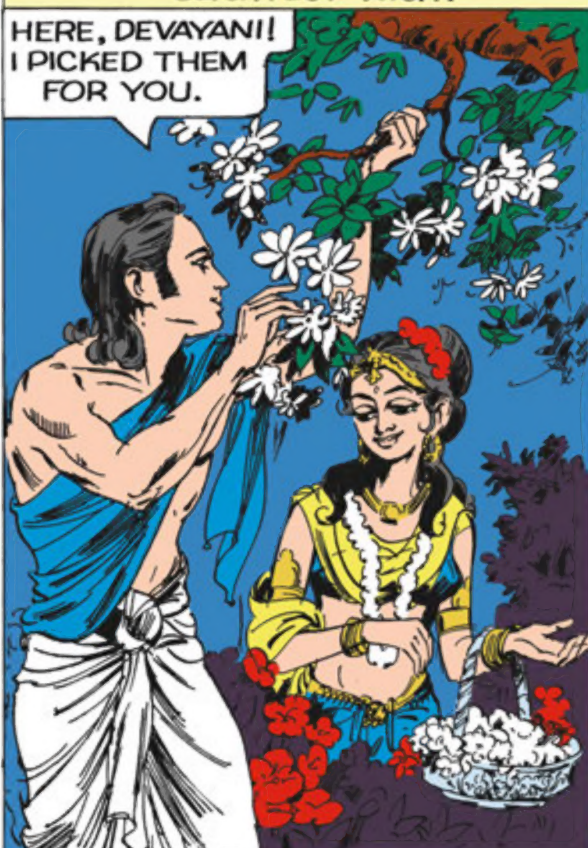
**...OR DEEP IN MEDITATION.**



**SO KACHA HELPED DEVAYANI  
WITH HER DAILY CHORES.**

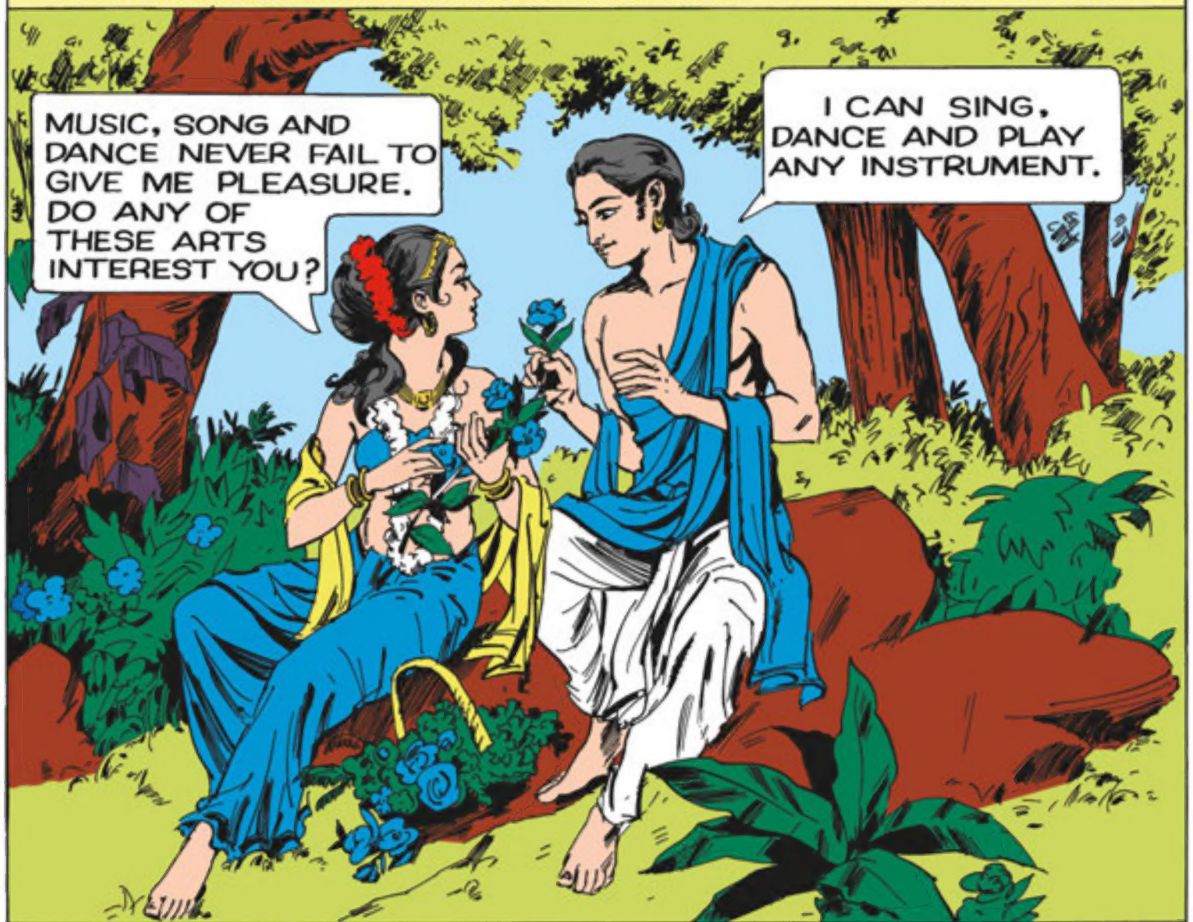


**AND TENDERLY FULFILLED HER  
SLIGHTEST WISH.**





WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF HIS ARRIVAL, KACHA FOUND HIMSELF SPENDING ALL HIS LEISURE HOURS IN THE COMPANY OF THE LIVELY DEVAYANI.



MUSIC, SONG AND DANCE NEVER FAIL TO GIVE ME PLEASURE. DO ANY OF THESE ARTS INTEREST YOU?

I CAN SING, DANCE AND PLAY ANY INSTRUMENT.

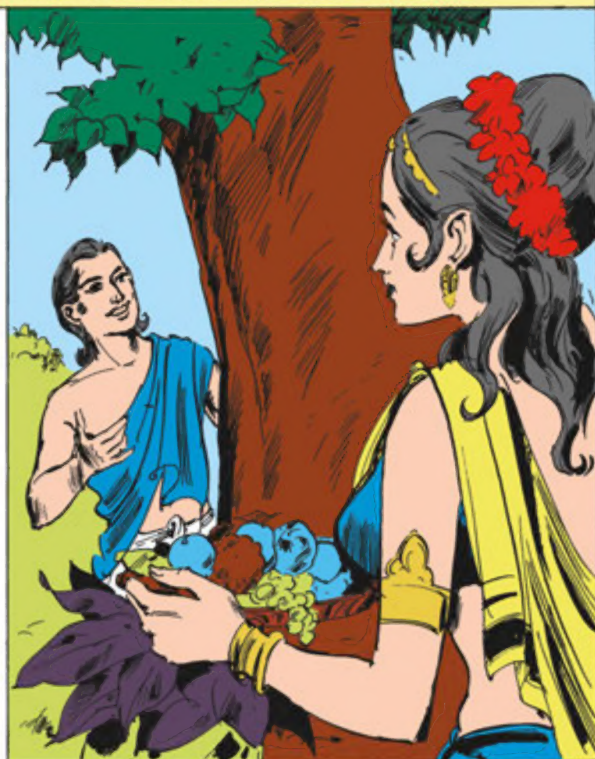


HOW WELL HE SINGS! HOW PEACEFUL IS HIS EXPRESSION! AND HOW IT DOES FILL MY HEART WITH A YEARNING, I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

AND KACHA WON HIS WAY INTO DEVAYANI'S HEART.



ONCE TO TEASE HER, KACHA HID HIMSELF AMONG THE TREES.



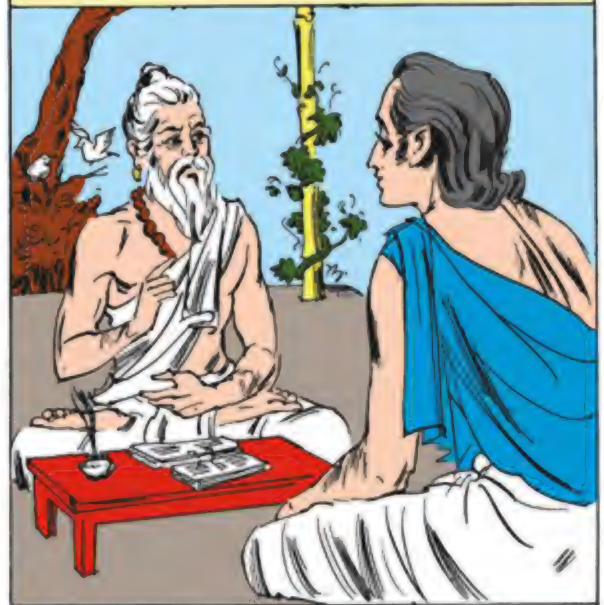
BUT DEVAYANI COULD NOT EVEN PRETEND TO BE ANGRY FOR LONG.







AND SO KACHA LIVED AND LEARNED  
IN THE HOME OF HIS GURU.



BUT AS THE YEARS PASSED, THE ASURAS BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF KACHA.

IT IS STRANGE! WHY SHOULD  
THE SON OF THE LEARNED  
BRIHASPATI COME TO OUR  
CITY AND CHOOSE SHUKRA-  
CHARYA FOR HIS GURU?

I SENSE TREACHERY.  
THE ONLY KNOWLEDGE  
SHUKRACHARYA HAS,  
THAT KACHA'S FATHER  
HAS NOT, IS THE SECRET  
CRAFT OF SANJIVANI.





ALL THE ASURAS ROSE AS ONE ROARING ANGRILY.



DOWN WITH  
THE SLY ONE.

KACHA  
MUST DIE.

KACHA  
SHALL BE  
KILLED.

WAIT! PATIENCE!  
WE SHALL HAVE  
TO DO THIS IN  
SECRECY. A GURU  
WILL NOT LET  
HIS PUPIL BE  
SLAIN.



THE ASURAS WAITED, BUT  
IMPATIENTLY. THEN ONE DAY \_





THE ASURAS FELL UPON HIM AND SLEW HIM.



THEY CUT HIM INTO PIECES.



AND FED HIS FLESH TO THEIR DOGS.



AS USUAL DEVAYANI WAITED FOR HIM.



IT IS LATE!  
THE CATTLE HAVE  
NOT RETURNED  
AND NEITHER  
HAS HE.





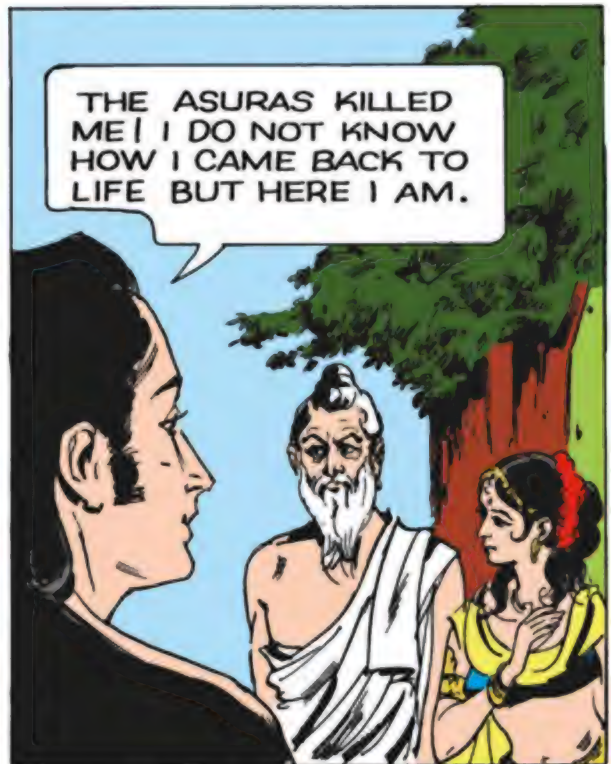


SHUKRACHARYA CLOSED HIS EYES AND LO!



KACHA STOOD BEFORE DEVAYANI.





KACHA CONTINUED LIVING IN THE HOME OF HIS GURU. ONE DAY -

LONG AGO, WHILE WALKING DEEP IN THE FOREST WITH MY FATHER, I HAD SEEN SOME FLOWERS. THEIR PERFUME STILL LINGERS IN MY MEMORY. KACHA, WILL YOU BRING SOME FOR ME? THEY BLOOM ONLY IN THIS SEASON.





SO HE WANDERED DEEP INTO THE FOREST IN SEARCH OF THE FLOWERS.  
THE ASURAS WERE WAITING FOR JUST SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY.



THEY WAYLAID HIM AND SLEW HIM.



THIS TIME THEY CARRIED HIS BODY  
TO A LONELY SPOT. THERE -

WE SHALL POUND  
HIS CARCASS INTO  
PASTE AND DISSOLVE  
IT IN THE WATERS OF  
THE OCEAN.





HOURS LATER AT SHUKRACHARYA'S HOME -

KACHA IS AWAY  
LONG ENOUGH TO  
COLLECT FLOWERS  
FOR TEN MAIDENS.  
I WONDER WHAT  
KEEPS HIM?

WHY SHOULD I WORRY?  
I HAVE ONLY TO TELL  
FATHER AND KACHA  
WITH MY FLOWERS  
WILL STAND BEFORE  
ME.

MEANWHILE-

I WONDER WHAT  
KEEPS KACHA. IT IS  
TIME FOR HIS STUDIES.  
AND HE IS PROMPT. FOR  
SOME REASON THE  
ASURAS WISH TO KILL  
MY DISCIPLE. I FEAR  
HE IS IN THEIR CLUT-  
CHES ONCE AGAIN.

DEVAYANI APPROACHED SHUKRACHARYA  
AND HIS SUSPICIONS WERE CONFIRMED.

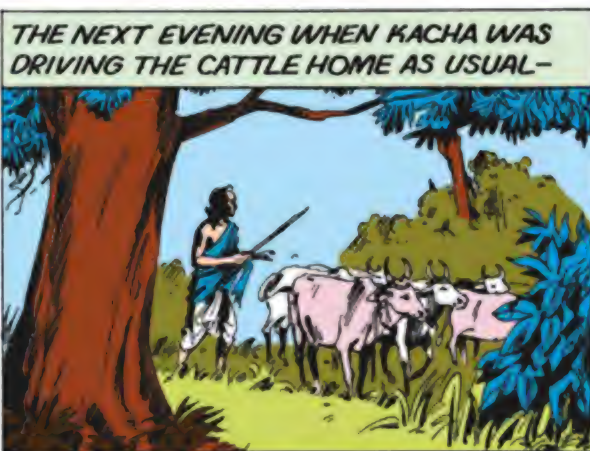
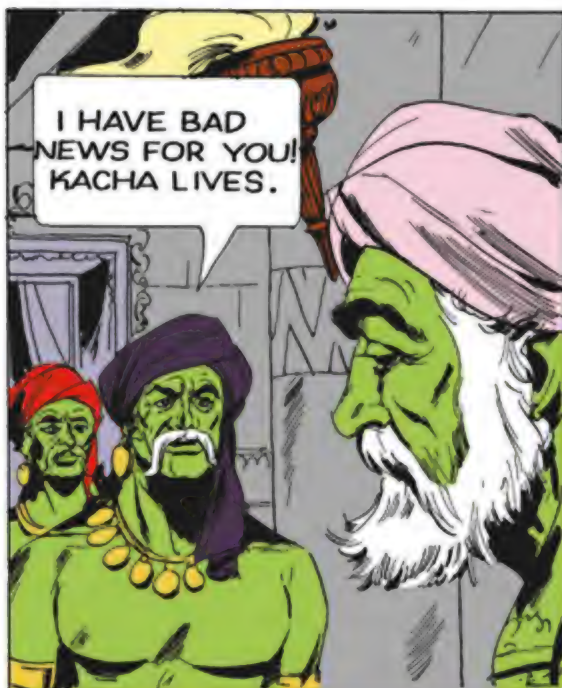
FATHER !

DO NOT BE  
UPSET,  
MY CHILD.

ONCE AGAIN HE USED HIS SECRET KNOWLEDGE TO RECALL KACHA.









HIS BODY WAS CREMATED.



THE ASHES WERE CAREFULLY COLLECTED...



... AND MIXED INTO A GOBLET OF WINE.





THE GREYING ASURA THEN TOOK THE GOBLET OF WINE TO SHUKRACHARYA.

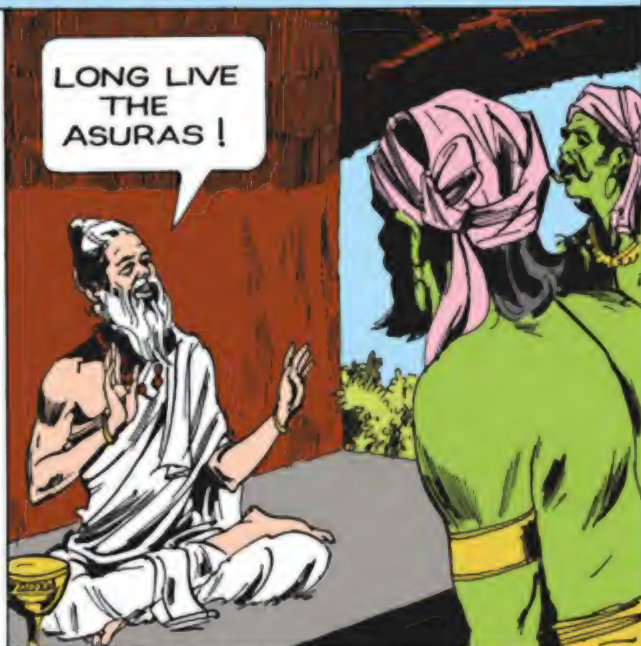
O WISE ONE !  
WE BRING YOU  
THIS HUMBLE GIFT  
IN GRATITUDE FOR  
KEEPING OUR  
NUMBERS  
CONSTANT.



IF SHUKRACHARYA HAD A WEAKNESS IT WAS FOR WINE. HE EMPTIED THE CONTENTS OF THE GOBLET IN ONE GULP.



LONG LIVE  
THE  
ASURAS !





DEVAYANI WAITED IN VAIN FOR KACHA.



OH KACHA!  
HOW MANY MORE  
DEATHS WILL YOU  
HAVE TO DIE  
BEFORE THE ASURAS  
LEAVE YOU ALONE?  
WILL YOU EVER  
BE MINE?

THE CATTLE RETURNED HOME ONCE MORE WITHOUT KACHA.



FATHER!  
WITHOUT KACHA  
I AM AS GOOD AS  
DEAD. PLEASE  
BRING HIM BACK  
TO LIFE.



SHUKRACHARYA KNEW THE FUTILITY OF RECALLING KACHA FROM THE DEAD.



WHAT GOOD WILL IT SERVE, IF I BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE ONCE MORE? THE ASURAS ARE BENT UPON KILLING HIM. A WISE SOUL LIKE YOU SHOULD NOT GRIEVE AT A LOVED ONE'S DEATH. YOU ARE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL AND YOU HAVE YOUR LIFE TO LIVE.

BUT DEVAYANI'S LOVE FOR KACHA KNEW NO REASONING.

KACHA WAS A GOOD PUPIL AND LOYAL TO US. I LOVED HIM DEARLY AND NOW THAT HE IS DEAD, I DO NOT WISH TO LIVE.

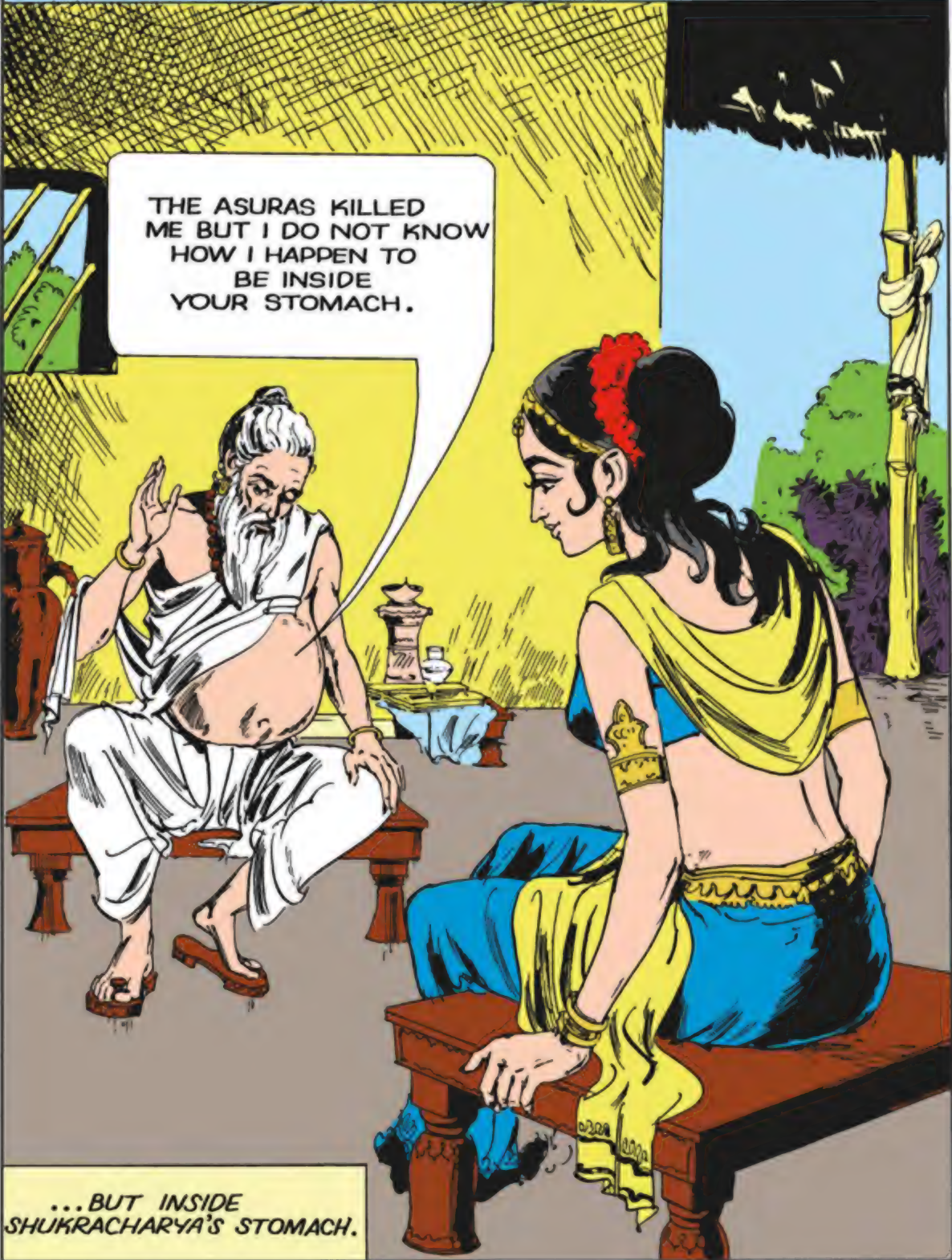


PLEASE, FATHER, I DON'T WANT TO EAT ANYTHING.

I CAN'T BEAR YOUR SORROW.



*YET AGAIN SHUKRACHARYA USED HIS SECRET KNOWLEDGE AND  
CALLED UPON KACHA TO COME BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING.  
KACHA CAME BACK TO LIFE ...*



THE ASURAS KILLED  
ME BUT I DO NOT KNOW  
HOW I HAPPEN TO  
BE INSIDE  
YOUR STOMACH.

*...BUT INSIDE  
SHUKRACHARYA'S STOMACH.*



SHUKRACHARYA CURSED HIMSELF  
FOR DRINKING WINE.

HENCEFORTH  
WINE SHALL BE  
FORBIDDEN FOR THOSE  
ENGAGED IN THE  
PURSUIT OF WISDOM.



SHUKRACHARYA, THE WISE ONE  
WAS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A  
DILEMMA.

KACHA CAN  
COME OUT  
ONLY BY  
KILLING ME.

BUT FATHER, I  
WILL NOT LIVE  
IF EITHER OF  
YOU DIES.



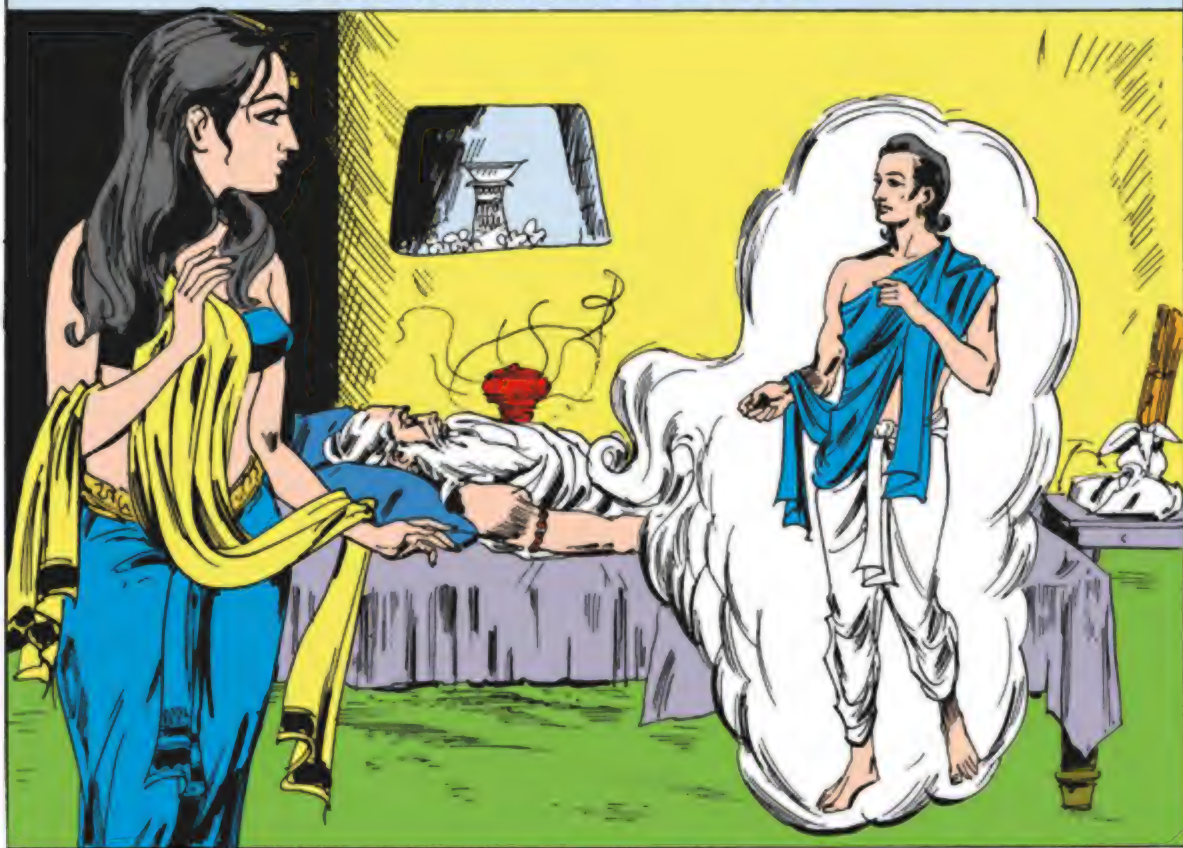
AS SHUKRACHARYA THOUGHT OF A WAY OUT, THE REAL PURPOSE OF KACHA'S  
VISIT DAWNED UPON HIM.



I NOW SEE WHY YOU  
CAME AND TRULY YOU  
HAVE SUCCEEDED. THERE  
IS ONLY ONE WAY BY  
WHICH BOTH OF US  
CAN SURVIVE TO  
ENSURE DEVAYANI'S  
HAPPINESS.  
I WILL HAVE  
TO TEACH YOU  
THE CRAFT OF  
SANJIVANI.



AND SO KACHA LEARNED THE CRAFT FOR WHICH HE HAD COME TO THE HOUSE OF SHUKRACHARYA IN THE CITY OF THE ASURAS AND EMERGED FROM SHUKRACHARYA'S MANGLED BODY.



HE IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT HIS GURU BACK TO LIFE.



SHUKRACHARYA COULD NOT HELP BEING PLEASED WITH HIS PUPIL'S WISDOM.

SHUKRACHARYA THEN WENT TO SEE THE ASURAS.









BUT KACHA WAS ONLY WAITING FOR THE FORMAL PERIOD OF HIS STUDIES TO COME TO AN END.

HOW WILL I BREAK THE NEWS TO DEVAYANI? SHE WILL BE HEART-BROKEN. BUT I MUST FULFIL MY DUTIES.



AT LAST THE DAY ARRIVED WHEN KACHA COULD LEAVE.

MY DAYS OF LIVING WITH MY GURU ARE OVER. I HAVE TO RETURN TO MY PEOPLE. MAY I TAKE MY LEAVE WITH YOUR BLESSING?



DOES DEVAYANI KNOW OF HIS DECISION? I WONDER!

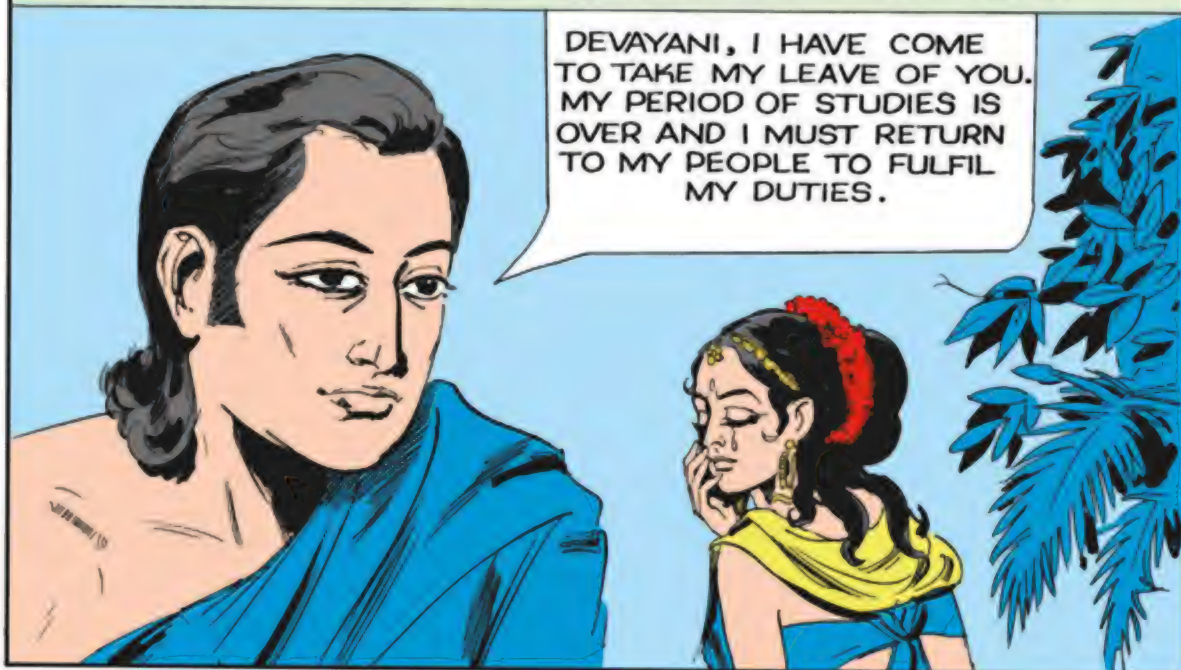




NEXT KACHA WENT TO DEVAYANI. SHE WAS FONDLING A DEER IN HER GARDEN.



BUT DEVAYANI'S SMILES WERE SOON TO DISSOLVE INTO TEARS.





NOBLE KACHA! WHILE YOU WERE A STUDENT, I LOVED YOU, BUT COULD NOT SPEAK OUT. NOW THAT YOU ARE FREE TO MARRY WILL YOU NOT TAKE ME FOR YOUR WIFE?



DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE HAPPY DAYS WE HAVE SHARED? WHY DO YOU STAND ALOOF? HAVE I WRONGED YOU IN ANY WAY?



KACHA HELD DEVAYANI'S HAND TENDERLY.

PEERLESS ONE! I WAS REBORN IN YOUR FATHER'S STOMACH. I AM THEREFORE YOUR BROTHER. I CAN'T MARRY YOU. I MUST RETURN.





THE BROKEN-HEARTED DEVAYANI CRIED OUT IN HER GRIEF.

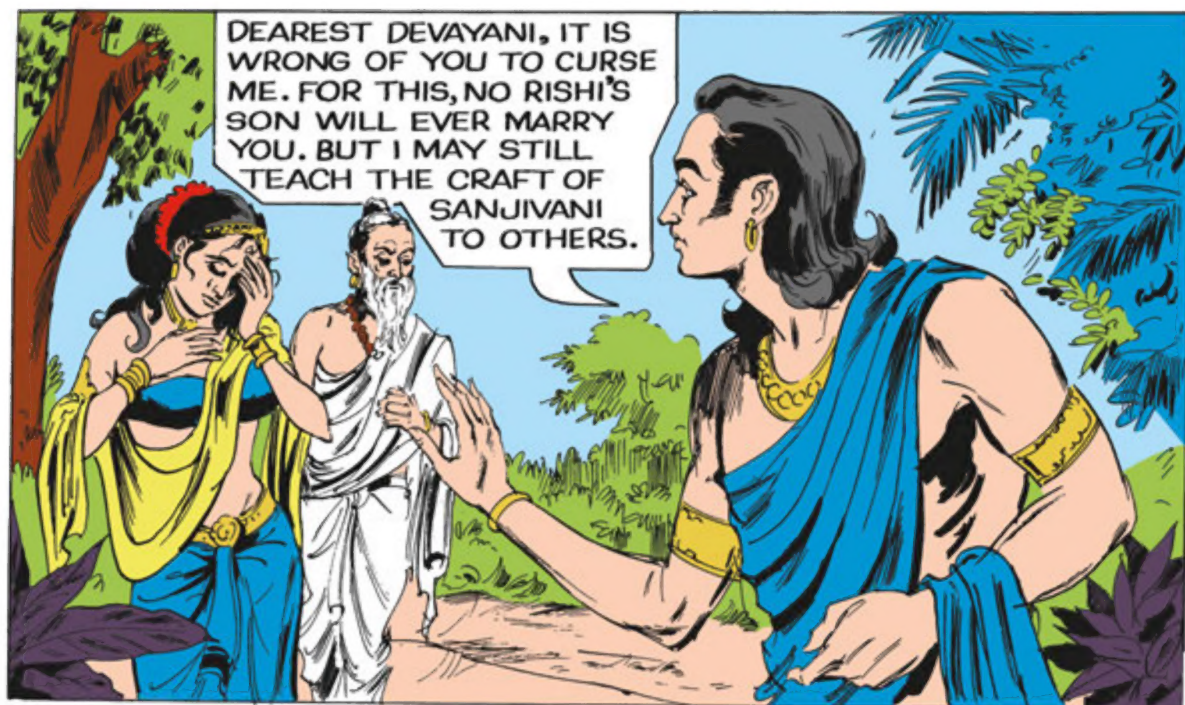
YOU MADE  
USE OF ONE WHO  
WAS SINLESS IN  
HER DEVOTION  
TO YOU.



I THEREFORE LAY A  
CURSE ON YOU.  
YOU WILL NEVER BE  
ABLE TO USE  
THE CRAFT OF  
SANJIVANI.







THEN KACHA DEPARTED FOR THE ABODE OF INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS.





SHUKRACHARYA GENTLY LED DEVAYANI AWAY.



WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, DEVAYANI COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF KACHA.

MAY I JOIN SHARMISHTHA AND THE OTHERS AT THE POOL ?

CERTAINLY !  
YOU MAY, MY CHILD ! BUT BE CAREFUL.





AND SHE LIVED HAPPILY WITH HER FATHER AND HER PLAYMATES  
IN THE CITY OF VRISHAPARVA, KING OF THE ASURAS.

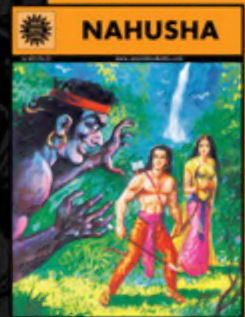




## KACHA AND DEVAYANI

While the war was raging between the devas and asuras, the devas sent Kacha to the preceptor of the asuras. Kacha approached the asura guru as a student. It was in this background of hate, war and rivalry that the beautiful Devayani, the proud daughter, of the asura guru, fell in love with Kacha, the man who was being watched by the asuras with increasing suspicion – they knew Kacha was seeking the key to immortality from their guru. Then a twist in the tale throws the dreams of the young couple into disarray.

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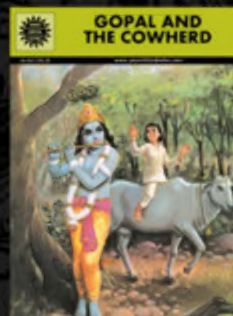
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ISBN 81-8482-000-3



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